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Remarks

In the action, claim 1-6 were identified as allowable; claims 7, 9, 11-14, 45, 47, 49-59 and 61-62 were rejected as being unpatentable over Santandrea et al.; and claims 8, 10, 46, 48 & 60 were identified as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 103

The rejection of claims 7, 9, 11-14, 45, 47, 49-59 and 61-62 as being unpatentable over Santandrea et al. is respectfully traversed.

Applicants first wish to clarify that the invention recited in the above-mentioned claims is not concerned with whether a workpiece holder or winding pallet is flipped or not. Instead, it is the cited art, Santandrea et al. that teaches flipping of a workpiece holder. Further, applicant is not currently relying upon any structural distinction between a workpiece holder and a winding pallet to establish patentability. Instead, and assuming *arguendo* only that a workpiece holder and a winding pallet are similar, claims 7, 45 and 56 are still distinguishable over Santandrea et al.

Independent claims 7, 45 and 56 are directed to the same invention, namely an automated stator winding method using a transport pallet with a winding pallet thereon and a stator part mounted on the winding pallet. Claim 56 is the broadest of these independent claims and therefore reference to the method steps of claim 56 is instructive. The table below clearly shows the deficiencies in the teachings of Santandrea et al.

[See Table beginning on page 3]

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Application Claim 56	Santandrea et al.
An automated stator winding method comprising:	
(a) providing a transport pallet and a winding pallet, the winding pallet removably positioned upon the transport pallet and a stator part mounted on the winding pallet;	Santandrea et al. provides a transport pallet 1 with a workpiece holder 9, 10 that fixtures a stator.
(b) separating the transport pallet from the winding pallet;	Santandrea et al. teaches that the workpiece holder 9, 10 can be separated from the transport pallet 1, but only in the context of flipping the workpiece holder 9, 10 so that it can be used to fixture a different size stator. Santandrea et al. does not teach to separate the workpiece holder from the transport pallet, to then to move the separated workpiece holder into a winding position and perform a winding operation, and then place the separated workpiece holder back on the transport pallet after the winding operation.
(c) moving the separated winding pallet into a winding position;	
(d) performing a winding operation at the winding position;	
(e) after step (d), placing the separated winding pallet back onto the transport pallet;	
wherein each of steps (b), (c), (d) and (e) are performed by automated machinery.	

Notably, in Santandrea et al, the workpiece holder includes body part 9 for holding a first stator type and body part 10 for holding a second stator type. If the workpiece holder is going to fixture a first stator type it engages on the pallet in one orientation (body part 9 facing up and body part 10 facing down), and if the workpiece holder is going to fixture a second stator type the workpiece holder is flipped so as to engage the pallet in an opposite orientation (body part 10 facing up and body part 9 facing down). A mechanism for removing the workpiece holder from the pallet, flipping it, and returning it to the pallet is provided (see primarily Figs. 3 and 4). However, such a flipping operation would certainly not take place while a stator part is fixtured in the workpiece holder, but only when the device needs to be reconfigured to accept a different stator type.

For the above reasons, claim 56 is patentably distinguishable over Santandrea et al.

Independent claims 7 and 45 include the same or similar limitations to those in claim 56 and are therefore distinguishable for at least the same reasons. All claims that depend from claims 7, 45 and 56 are likewise patentable.

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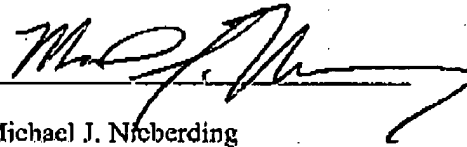
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Conclusion

Based upon the foregoing, applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. If the examiner wishes to discuss any aspect of this paper, please contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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